

wherein

the electrode is positioned in the compartment and isolated from the external environment,

the electrode is removable from the compartment to expose the electrode to the external environment, and

the connector maintains the electrical connection to the electrode when the electrode is removed from the compartment.

24. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, wherein the connector further comprises a terminal extending from the second end of the connector body, and an electrically conductive path is provided between the electrode and the terminal when the compartment maintains the electrode in isolation from the external environment.

25. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, further comprising a wire/lead extending from the electrode to the first end of the connector body, the wire lead being positioned within the compartment and providing the electrical connection between the electrode and the connector.

Sub 4 26. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, further comprising a second adhesively-applied skin electrode positioned within the compartment, the compartment maintaining the second electrode in isolation from the external environment, wherein:

the second electrode is removable from the compartment to expose the second electrode to the external environment.

27. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 26, wherein the connector further comprises first and second terminals extending from the second end of the connector body, wherein an electrically conductive path is provided between the first electrode and the first terminal and between the second electrode and the second terminal when the compartment maintains the electrodes in isolation from the external environment.

a 28. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 27, further comprising a first wire lead extending from the first electrode to the first terminal and a second wire lead extending from the second electrode to the second terminal.

29. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, wherein the compartment comprises an envelope comprising a sheet of material that defines the compartment and is adapted to open to a generally flat configuration.

30. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 29, wherein the envelope further comprises a seal joining portions of the envelope to define the compartment.

31. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 30, wherein the seal comprises a releasable seal, the envelope being openable to expose the first electrode to the external environment by releasing the releasable seal.

32. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 29, wherein the compartment comprises a first wall that defines a first interior surface facing the interior of the compartment, the first interior surface including a first electrode mounting surface attached to an adhesive portion of the electrode.

33. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 32, further comprising:

a second adhesively-applied skin electrode positioned in the compartment and isolated from the external environment, and

a second wall that defines a second interior surface facing the interior of the compartment, the second interior surface including a second electrode mounting surface attached to an adhesive portion of the second electrode.

34. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 33, wherein each of the first and second interior surfaces are located on opposite sides of a first edge of the envelope, and the first edge, the first interior surface, and the second interior surface are adapted to permit the envelope to be opened by folding back the envelope at the first edge.

35. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 34, wherein the first edge of the envelope comprises a fold in the sheet of material.

36. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 34, wherein the envelope further comprises a pair of tabs adapted to aid opening the envelope, the tabs being located opposite the first edge of the envelope.

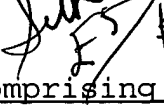
37. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 33, wherein the first and second interior surfaces face each other.

a 38. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 37, wherein the first electrode and the second electrode may be exposed to the external environment by opening the envelope, and wherein, when the envelope is opened, the first and second electrode mounting surfaces both face upward and are approximately coplanar.

39. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 32, further comprising an adhesive layer for temporarily securing a wire lead of the electrode to the first interior surface, the adhesive layer being located on the first interior surface.

40. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 32, further comprising a first reinforcing layer located at the first electrode mounting surface, wherein the first wall is thicker at the first electrode mounting surface than at other regions of the first interior surface.

41. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, wherein the connector body comprises a single piece of material and includes an integral hinge.

42. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, further comprising a wire lead extending from the electrode to the second end of the connector body, the wire lead being positioned within the compartment and providing the electrical connection between the electrode and the connector,

wherein the connector body includes strain relief elements for relieving strain on the wire lead.

A 43. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23, wherein the connector body includes a central section between the first and second ends, the central section including an arcuate upper portion and an arcuate lower portion,

wherein the electrode is isolated from the external environment and the connector is secured by sealing a first wall of the compartment to the arcuate upper portion of the central section, sealing a second wall of the compartment to the arcuate lower portion of the central section, and sealing the first and second walls to each other.

44. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 43, wherein a releasable seal is formed along the sealed connection of the first and second walls.

45. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23,
wherein:

the compartment includes a seal between a first wall of
the compartment and a second wall of the compartment;

the connector body includes a central section between the
first and second ends; and

the central section extends through the seal, with the
first end of the connector body being located on a first side of
the seal and a second end of the connector body being located on a
second side of the seal.

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46. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 45,
wherein:

the central section of the connector body includes an
upper portion and a lower portion;

the first wall of the compartment is secured to the upper
portion of the connector body; and

the second wall of the compartment is secured to the
lower portion of the connector body.

47. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 46,
wherein:

the first wall of the compartment is secured to the upper
portion of the connector body by heat sealing; and

the second wall of the compartment is secured to the
lower portion of the connector body by heat sealing.

48. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 23 in combination with a defibrillator, wherein the adhesively-applied skin electrode comprises a defibrillation electrode and the connector and defibrillator are connected to provide an electrically conductive path between the defibrillator and the electrode while the compartment maintains the electrode in isolation from the external environment.

49. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 6 in combination with a defibrillator, wherein the first adhesively-applied skin electrode comprises a defibrillation electrode and the connector and defibrillator are connected to provide an electrically conductive path between the defibrillator and the electrode while the sealed first compartment maintains the electrode in isolation from the external environment.

50. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 13 in combination with a defibrillator, wherein the first adhesively-applied skin electrode comprises a defibrillation electrode and the connector and defibrillator are connected to provide an electrically conductive path between the defibrillator and the electrode while the releasable seal maintains the electrode in the sealed mode in isolation from the external environment.

51. (Amended) The electrode package of claim 16 in combination with a defibrillator, wherein the first adhesively-applied skin electrode comprises a defibrillation electrode and the

connector and defibrillator are connected to provide an electrically conductive path between the defibrillator and the electrode while the releasable seal maintains the electrode in the sealed mode in isolation from the external environment.

REMARKS

The examiner's correction of the inadvertent reference to 35 U.S.C. instead of 37 CFR is acknowledged.

As requested, the amendment adds the necessary underlining to new claims 23-51.

The examiner's indication that claims 1-12 and 49 are allowable is acknowledged.

The examiner has rejected claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, for failing to provide sufficient structure in the claims to perform the function of "maintain a first said electrode in either a sealed mode ... or an unsealed mode." The examiner indicates that "the term 'compartment' is insufficient to support this function since compartments are not required to be openable and closable without further description. The examiner is urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection. The limitation in question is written to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6, which contemplates that a functional recitation may substitute for structure. The examiner's rejection seems based on an incorrect interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6. What the examiner is saying is that one must put enough structure into such a limitation in order for the function to be performed. That is not the law. E.g., it is routine for 112/6 limitations to not